

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A passenger protecting system mounted on an automotive vehicle, the passenger protecting system comprising:

a main control unit having a main detecting circuit for detecting types of collision based on signals from main acceleration sensors and a main driving signal generating circuit for generating main driving signals based on signals from the main detecting circuit;

a safeguard control unit having a safeguard detecting circuit for detecting types of collision based on signals from safeguard acceleration sensors and a safeguard driving signal generating circuit for generating safeguard driving signals based on signals from the safeguard detecting circuit;

a driving integrated circuit having main switching elements driven by the main driving signals and safeguard switching elements driven by the safeguard driving signals; and

a plurality of passenger protecting devices mounted on the automotive vehicle to be actuated upon detection of a collision, wherein:

some passenger protecting devices are selected from among the plurality of passenger protecting devices according to the types of collision and actuated when both of the main and the safeguard switching elements are driven; and

information regarding the passenger protecting devices to be selected according to the types of collision are pre-programmed in the main control unit and the information is transmitted to the safeguard control unit.

2. The passenger protecting system as in claim 1, wherein:

at least either one of the safeguard detecting circuit or the safeguard driving signal generating circuit is integrally formed with the driving integrated circuit.

3. The passenger protecting system as in claim 1, wherein:

the safeguard control unit includes a register frame capable of containing register channels, the number of which is larger than that of the safeguard switching elements.

4. The passenger protecting system as in claim 3, wherein:

the information regarding the passenger protecting devices to be selected according to the types of collision, which is transmitted from the main control unit to the safeguard control unit, is stored in the register frame as logical values.